



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2010

No. 81

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, we are in Your hands and may we rejoice above all things in being so. Do with us what seems good in Your sight. Only let us love You with all our mind, soul, and strength.

Today, show mercy to the Members of this legislative body. Let Your sovereign hand be over them and Your Holy Spirit ever be with them, directing all their thoughts, words, and works to Your glory. Lord, prosper the works of their hands, enabling them in due season to reap a bountiful harvest if they faint not. In all that they say and do, may they seek Your glory, striving for faithfulness in even the small matters of their labors.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD.)

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 26, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4899, the emergency supplemental appropriations bill. There will be no morning business this morning. We will go directly to the bill.

Yesterday evening, I filed cloture on the committee-reported substitute amendment in the underlying bill. As a result, there is a 1 p.m. filing deadline for germane first-degree amendments.

Today, I will continue to work with the Republican leader on an agreement to complete action on the bill without cloture. If an agreement cannot be reached, a cloture vote would occur tomorrow morning. Rollcall votes are expected to occur throughout the day in relation to amendments on the supplemental appropriations bill.

We have had a number of conversations. Some amendments may have technical points of order against them. I think we are at a point now where we should arrange some votes on a number of these amendments and move forward on this bill. There are Senators on both sides who have amendments to offer. I will do my best over here to talk down the number of amendments. I know the Republican leader will do the same. We have to have some amendments. I am anxious to move to them. I have di-

rected my floor staff to try to work out arrangements so we can vote on some of those this morning.

We may be in a position where we would have to have a 60-vote threshold on all these amendments. A lot of them may require that anyway. I think that would be the appropriate thing to do.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading, is that correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the bills for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3410) to create a fair and efficient system to resolve claims of victims for economic injury caused by the Deepwater Horizon incident, and to direct the Secretary of the Interior to renegotiate the terms of the lease known as "Mississippi Canyon 252" with respect to claims relating to the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill that exceed existing applicable economic liability limitations.

A bill (S. 3421) to provide a temporary extension for certain programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings on these bills at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

ISSUES OF CONCERN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are waiting today to see the success of the efforts of BP to plug that well that is spilling into the gulf. This morning, it is reported that there is a 70- to 80-percent chance that they can be successful. I certainly hope the odds that favor the stopping the oilspill work.

It is very important that the American people understand, and the world

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S4397